



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 292

LCO No. 1481

01481_____KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING HOMELESS YOUTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Homeless youth" means a person under twenty-one years of age
4 who is without shelter where appropriate care and supervision are
5 available and who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime
6 residence, including youth under the age of eighteen whose parent or
7 legal guardian is unable or unwilling to provide shelter and
8 appropriate care;

9 (2) "Fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence" means a
10 dwelling at which a person resides on a regular basis that adequately
11 provides safe shelter, including (A) a publicly or privately operated
12 institutional shelter designed to provide temporary living
13 accommodations; (B) transitional housing; or (C) a temporary
14 placement with a peer, friend or family member who has not offered a
15 permanent residence, residential lease or temporary lodging for more
16 than thirty days; and

17 (3) "Aftercare services" means continued counseling, guidance or
18 support for not more than six months following the provision of
19 services.

20 (b) The Department of Children and Families, within available
21 appropriations, shall establish a program that provides public
22 outreach, shelter and transitional living services for homeless youth
23 and youth at risk of homelessness. The department may enter into a
24 contract with nonprofit organizations or municipalities to implement
25 this section. Such program shall have the following components:

26 (1) A public outreach and drop-in component that provides youth
27 drop-in centers with walk-in access to crisis intervention and ongoing
28 supportive services, including one-to-one case management services
29 on a self-referral basis and public outreach that locates, contacts and
30 provides information, referrals and services to homeless youth and
31 youth at risk of homelessness. Such component shall include, but not
32 be limited to, information, referrals and services for (A) family
33 reunification services, conflict resolution or mediation counseling; (B)
34 temporary emergency shelter, case management aimed at obtaining
35 food, clothing, medical care or mental health counseling, counseling
36 regarding violence, prostitution, substance abuse, sexually transmitted
37 diseases, HIV and pregnancy, and referrals to agencies that provide
38 support services to homeless youth and youth at risk of homelessness;
39 (C) education, employment and independent living skills; (D) aftercare
40 services; and (E) specialized services for highly vulnerable homeless
41 youth, including teen parents, sexually-exploited youth and youth
42 with mental illness or developmental disabilities;

43 (2) An emergency shelter component that provides homeless youth
44 with referrals and walk-in access to short-term residential care on an
45 emergency basis that includes voluntary housing, with private shower
46 facilities, beds and at least one meal each day, and assistance with
47 reunification with family or a legal guardian when required or
48 appropriate. Services provided at emergency shelters may include, but

49 need not be limited to, (A) family reunification services or referral to
 50 safe housing; (B) individual, family and group counseling; (C)
 51 assistance in obtaining clothing; (D) access to medical and dental care
 52 and mental health counseling; (E) education and employment services;
 53 (F) recreational activities; (G) case management, advocacy and referral
 54 services; (H) independent living skills training; and (I) aftercare
 55 services and transportation; and

56 (3) A transitional living component that (A) assists homeless youth
 57 in finding and maintaining safe housing, and (B) includes rental
 58 assistance and related supportive services. Such component shall
 59 include, but not be limited to, (i) educational assessment and referral to
 60 educational programs; (ii) career planning, employment, job skills
 61 training and independent living skills training; (iii) job placement; (iv)
 62 budgeting and money management; (v) assistance in securing housing
 63 appropriate to needs and income; (vi) counseling regarding violence,
 64 prostitution, substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and
 65 pregnancy, referral for medical services or chemical dependency
 66 treatment; and (vii) parenting skills, self-sufficiency support services or
 67 life skills training and aftercare services.

68 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) On or before February 1,
 69 2012, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Children and
 70 Families shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
 71 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
 72 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
 73 services and the select committee of the General Assembly having
 74 cognizance of matters relating to children. The report shall evaluate the
 75 program established under section 1 of this act and shall make
 76 recommendations for any changes to the program to ensure that the
 77 best available services are being delivered to homeless youth and
 78 youth at risk of homelessness.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To authorize the Commissioner of Children and Families to administer, within available appropriations, a program of outreach, shelter and transitional living services for homeless youth.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]